

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
August 7, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Beardsley, Vice President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Heather Jones
Ryan McGregor
Amber Belson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jon Triana, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Bill Swan, Interim Water Asst. Supervisor
Tom Huber
Nancy Anderson
Randy Anderson
Diana Hanes
JoAnn Kloss
Robert Behrens
Bobbi Jo Morey

Allen Dalrymple
David Hirtzel
Joseph Schneider
Nancy Schneider
Debra Meehl
Chris Skrekla
Kayla Skrekla
Steve Gregory
Ken Snyder
Denise Pkelnicky
Mason Bennett
Robert Hoyt
Rosan Adkins
Eric Luke
Others present, not signed in

PUBLIC HEARING:

The public hearing for Ordinance No. 927 – Comprehensive Parking Ordinance began at 6:00 p.m. Borough Council Vice President B. Beardsley asked for public comment regarding the proposed Ordinance No. 927.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, stated his concern that the proposed parking restriction on East Street would negatively affect the business located on the north side of the street, specifically Pennock's Cub Cadet.

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, August 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council Vice President B. Beardsley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., following the public hearing, at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

Borough Council Vice President B. Beardsley asked if anyone would like to give the invocation. There was no response.

MINUTES:

A. Belson motioned to approve the July 3, 2023, minutes as presented. T. Luke seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

EXPENSE REPORT:

B. Beardsley asked if there was anything specific about the Expense Report that should be noted. P. Gehrlein stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary during the month. T. Luke motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

There were no prior requests for Citizens to be Heard.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICERS:

There were no reports from Elected Officers.

REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICERS:

There were no reports from Appointed Officers.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

There were no reports from Standing Committees.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

There were no reports from Special Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 927 – Comprehensive Parking Ordinance

A. Belson asked if a small amendment could be made to the proposed Ordinance No. 927 to include short-term parking in front of the business on East Street as discussed in the Public Hearing. P. Gehrlein stated that the small amendment can be added without additional advertising. A. Belson motioned to approve Ordinance No. 927 – Comprehensive Parking Ordinance, contingent upon the addition of the short-term parking provision on the north side of East Street. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

North East Area Public Safety Commission

P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough and Township have been in collaboration regarding the proposed North East Area Public Safety Commission. The Township sent a copy of their proposed Resolution for appointing

members to the commission, which will form an agreement once the commission is established. H. Jones stated that their previous document will be used as the guideline for moving forward. H. Jones motioned to create a Resolution for the North East Area Public Safety Commission, to be presented at the September 5, 2023, meeting. A. Beson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 08072023-1: Application for County Aid

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed Resolution would allow the Borough to apply for \$10,820 in county aid for the liquid fuels project repaving Liberty and Bothel Streets (estimated total project cost \$60,107.24).

R. McGregor motioned to approve Resolution 08072023-1: Application for County Aid as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

Ordinance No. 924 – Establishing a Residential/Commercial Rental Inspection and Registration Program

B. Beardsley stated that a public meeting was held on June 24, 2023, to discuss the creation of the proposed ordinance. H. Jones motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 924 – Establishing a Residential/Commercial Rental Inspection and Registration Program as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

Gibson Park: Lake View Mennonite Church – Hymn Sing (August 27, 2023)

T. Luke motioned to approve the Request for Gibson Park: Lake View Mennonite Church – Hymn Sing as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park: Downtown North East – Wine Fest 5K (September 23, 2023)

A. Belson motioned to approve the Request for Gibson Park: Downtown North East – Wine Fest 5k as presented. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park: Wreaths Across America – Veterans Ceremony and Wreath Distribution (December 16, 2023)

A. Belson motioned to approve the Request for Gibson Park: Wreaths Across America – Veterans Ceremony and Wreath Distribution as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting – August 21, 2023, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that a second monthly meeting is not needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA Public Utilities Commission

P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough received a secretarial letter from the PA Public Utilities Commission that outlined the duties and responsibilities of all parties regarding the at-grade railroad crossing at Loomis Street.

P. Gehrlein stated that the dynamic envelope has been painted and sight lines have been cleared. He stated that Erie County will be conducting a transportation study for added safety measures.

**Police Chief Report
Code Enforcement Report
Departmental Report
Commissions and Authorities**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

September Borough Council Meeting (due to Labor Day): Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

P. Gehrlein stated that the North East Borough Walking Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Council meeting. Interested parties were invited to meet at Borough Hall for the walking tour.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Dr, stated that the Erie County Landbank property on South Washington Street is posted for sale and asked for an update regarding the property at 59/61 West Main Street. B. Beardsley stated that he and A. Belson had previously met with the Erie County Landbank and reviewed the proposals for the West Main Street property, but that the Landbank is responsible for selecting a proposal. P. Gehrlein stated that the South Washington Street property is being discussed as a side lot purchase by a neighbor.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked what is done with street signs that are removed. W. Yokom stated that they are often recycled. R. Behrens asked if they could be purchased instead of being recycled. P. Gehrlein stated that he will check on regulations for bidding on property purchased by the Borough. R. Behrens also asked why the property on Smedley Street is not for sale. P. Gehrlein stated that selling the property will likely be the next step taken.

D. Meehl, 61 East Division Street, asked when Ordinance No. 927 would go into effect and who would be enforcing it. P. Gehrlein stated that there will be notifications for residents and updated signage, which they hope to have in place by winter.

D. Pekelnicky, 36 West Main Street, requested the Borough Council address Penelec and the Public Utilities Commission regarding the frequent electrical outages and power surges which have been negatively affecting residents and businesses in North East. R. McGregor stated that the representative offices of J. Banta and D. Laughlin should also be able to act on behalf of North East in seeking a resolution.

E. Luke, 38 North Mill Street, asked if the repair patch on Clinton Street was going to be repaved. W. Yokom stated that it will be done within the week.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, asked when PennDOT was going to be paving Route 89 as it will be an inconvenience for daily travel. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough has not yet been informed of a date. R. Adkins asked Borough Council members to speak louder when talking throughout the meeting. She also expressed safety concerns regarding the playground at Heard Park.

J. Schneider, 64 Eaton Drive, stated that several complaints have been made against his neighbor over the last 14 months, yet the situation remains largely unchanged. J. Schneider invited Council members to visit his house after the meeting in order to see and smell the problems for themselves. J. Triana asked if this would be a case involving an Administrative Search Warrant. P. Gehrlein stated that an Administrative Search Warrant is not necessary because the complaints are regarding outdoor concerns.

D. Hanes, 56 Gibson Street/11 East Main Street, asked what could be done about the building across from her business that remains empty and is an eyesore. P. Gehrlein stated that the owner of the property currently has it listed for sale.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked why dumpsters are no longer given to landlords free of charge when a tenant moved out. P. Gehrlein stated that there was repeated abuse of the system, therefore all dumpster rentals are now charged.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:39 p.m., A. Belson motioned to adjourn. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (August 8, 2023)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager